

BE PREPARED
TROOP 185

Bucks County Quakertown, PA.

SCOUT MASTER NEWS LETTER

Scout Master: David Lynch

February 23, 2009

Hello Scouts & Parents,

First, I would like to thank the two new scout parents Dan & Phil. They attended this past weekend Backpack and Tee-pee building Trip. Thanks again!!!!

I would like to welcome all the new scouts and parents to into our Troop. Troop 185 just celebrated 40 years as a Troop in Quakertown. I know some of you may have some questions regarding scouting and our program here at Troop 185. I would like to extend and invitation to our parent committee meeting on Sunday March 15th, 2009. This is a very important meeting for everyone. Prior to this meeting, we hope you will all get a chance to meet some of our Troop Committee and Scout Masters. Mike Houdek is our Committee Chairman. Each year new scouts and parents join scouting. You and your son will be given our Troop Scout Parent Guide. Within that guide, lists an array of specific Troop 185 information. Our program is based solely on volunteers. We all know the juggling of work and our children's evening activities can be a little crazy at times. My hope is that we plan together and with everyone giving to each other a hand now and again, our children will reap an amazing life teaching program. I must have at least two adults on every trip.

It is that time of year that new boys will be joining our Troop. Those of you who are coming from a pack or just joining for the first time should find the transition into our troop rather smooth. When a scout joins our Troop, he will be given a Boy Scout Handbook as a gift from our Troop. Within that Handbook, all the information on the scouting program is described. He will use that handbook on his entire scout journey to age 18. When he first joins Boy Scouts, he will be assigned a older experience Boy Scout (Troop Guide) to aide in the transition. He will complete a few simple requirements list in his book. He will be given his first Rank called "SCOUT". The following ranks in order will require a multitude of tasks and experiences; TENDERFOOT, SECOND CLASS, FIRST CLASS, STAR, LIFE and highest rank EAGLE. Some of those experiences come in a form of Merit Badges otherwise known as MB's. Rank advancement will require your son to complete MB's. These can be obtained in a group setting, summer camp or some cases by him self. In-addition, he will need certain MB's to continue to his next rank. The rate of his advancement primarily is at his own pace. To reach the highest nationally recognized Boy Scout rank of "EAGLE", he must complete 12 specific and total minimum of 21 total MB's. Starting next week, we will begin the 2009 Troop Merit Badge Sessions for 10 weeks.

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Each month, I work with the SPL's and the PLC's to prepare them there leadership rolls. I am very proud of our boys. At times, as they are learning, they fall short of others expectations. It is important that we all keep a positive outlook and continue to encourage them to succeed in the task at hand. Every year our district puts on a specific parent &/or new leader training class. It's fun and coming up March 7th, 2009. SPL's too!!!

I would like to tell you a little about my scouting work and experiences. I have been involved in scouting since I was 7 years old with Troop 81. I have been involved with Pack, Troop and Venture Crew 185 for 15 years. I completed my Scout Wood Badge training in 2002. I am a volunteer Certified EMT in Bucks County, Fire Fighter, and Marine & Rescue Scuba Diver. Between all that, I design and Build Log Homes. I live in a log home Haycock Twp. just north east of Quakertown. (20 minutes) My wife's name is Michelle. We have two sons (Nick age 20 Eagle Scout) & (Collin age 12 Second Class) and two foster children Jack age 8 and Nicholas age 4 whom have been living with us for about two years.

Please take a look at the weekly newsletter that is read by the SPL's and given to you son each week. You can also find a copy posted on our Troop Website. www.troop185.tk

Summer camp is coming up soon. It is VERY important that you call or take time out now to discuss your son's 2009 Summer Camp. I have some specific information for those scouts whom can not attend. Please call me this week if you are not going to **Medicine Mountain Ranch (Mount Rushmore) in South Dakota.** Troop 215 has a few scouts that can not attend as well. We have a camp lined up for those scouts at Resica Falls in the Pocono's. Aug 2nd -8th. We can also book another camp as well on another date if that does not work for us.. It's really important for the scouts to go to attend summer camp as it ties into the entire program. Plus, its "**Mad Fun**" as the kids would say.

Look forward to working with you all,

Yours in Scouting

David K. Lynch Jr.
Scout Master Troop 185